

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00478 111922Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 /016 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0518
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0478

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

REF: STATE 5486

1. IN A MEETING WITH RSO ON JAN. 11, 1978, ISRAELI SECURITY (SHIN-BETH) ADVISED THAT A SHIN-BETH SECURITY COORDINATOR WILL BE ASSIGNED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON TO MAKE ALL NECESSARY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM THE MOMENT SECSTATE VANCE LEAVES ISRAEL AND MR. ATHERTON ASSUMES DUTIES AS HEAD OF THE U.S. DELEGATION. DURING THE PERIOD THAT SECSTATE VANCE IS HERE, NO ISRAELI SECURITY PERSONNEL WILL BE ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO MR. ATHERTON. WHEN ASKED IF THEY WOULD RECOMMEND THAT STATE DEPT SECURITY PERSONNEL ALSO ACCOMPANY ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON, THEY ADVISED THIS WAS QUESTION FOR US TO DECIDE BUT FELT THEY COULD PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY SECURITY THEMSELVES. THEY RECOMMENDED THAT IF WE DID DECIDE TO BRING OUR OWN SECURITY PERSONNEL THAT IT BE KEPT TO MINIMUM TO AVOID HAVING AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF SECURITY PERSONNEL AROUND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

2. SHIN-BETH ADVISED DURING THE MEETING THAT THEY ARE TAKING STRICT SECURITY MEASURE FOR THIS VISIT DUE
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TO THE HIGH-CHARGED ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING THE JERUSALEM CONFERENCE. IT SHLULD BE NOTED THAT THE LARGE ARAB POPULATION IN THE JERUSALEM AREA, AS WELL AS CERTAIN EXTREMIST ELEMENTS IN THE JEWISH POPULATION, HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR CAUSING PROBLEMS. IT ALSO SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TERRORIST BOMBINGS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE INCREASED AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE IN THE FORESEEABLE

FUTURE. POST AGREES WITH THE SHIN-BETH ASSESSMENT THAT SECURITY FOR THIS CONFERENCE HAS TO BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY.

3. BASED ON THE ABOVE, THE POST RECOMMENDS THAT A SMALL (SY/PRS) DETAIL, PERHAPS TWO AGENTS, BE ASSIGNED TO MR. ATHERTON FOR THE DURATION OF HIS JERUSALEM VISIT. PRINCIPAL ROLE OF SY AGENTS WOULD BE TO ACT AS LIAISON AND BACK-UP TO SHIN-BETH DETAIL. FYI PRESENT PLAN WOULD BE TO HAVE ONE SHIN-BETH AGENT COVERING ATHERTON 24 HOURS A DAY.
LEWIS

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